

926 Grand Avenue
Rockford Ills
April 5/84

My dear Mr Watson

I ought to have written long ago to thank you for the beautiful and complete tracing of S. glauca var macrocarpa. I certainly did not expect anything so elaborate. Had I not seen now how I could have been satisfied with less. It helps me to a clear understanding of the matter which I could not get from Anderson's descriptions alone.

I do wish we could get Trautvetter's paper. It is almost "too much of a good thing" for this world of qualified benefits to think of having "examples of the originals upon which the species were based for their identification". As for the paper I had a vague impression that the memoirs in which it appeared were in some of the libraries of Washington - and in reply

the very interesting Mr. W. A. S. writes
me - "It (the paper) is in vol 11 of the
Boucaux Memoires of the Society, *Annales
des Naturalistes de l'Alaska* - The Memoires
cover 6 vols and then it is called
Boucaux Memoires, so that it is vol
VIII of the entire series. In the Library of
Congress the volume is provokingly
missing, not merely loaned out, but
never came. In the list of serials that's
contained in the Libraries of Cambridge
and Boston I find the Boucaux Mem.
exists in the Library of the "Green
Head, of Boston and a volume of 110 pages"

As an indication of the importance
of this paper in the study of American
Arctic Molluscs I notice that in naming
the collection returned to Dr. Gray yesterday
I had occasion to refer to
S. crassifolia Grant
S. ovalefolia Grant.

S. rotundifolia, ditto - bottles of
which I would much prefer to
have had in the original - rather
than in Anderson's transcription.

By the way seeing your mention of
S. macrocarpa but I am reminded to
tell you that I have heard from
Kew - I believe I will include
the letter - which I have retained

It seems that my determination
The Saksdups specimens is sustained
- but I had written that unless
some additional characters could
be drawn from the original *S. Geyeri*
over and above those given by Andersson
that the species could not stand - for
really Anderssons description is identical
in substance with Battalls of
S. macrocarpa - And now please see
what Sir Joseph writes me - think
of my coming down on your
Cambridge folk to endorse a new
species of mine - exactly like
something known a long time ago
only that the authors were "larger and
oblong" "bracts narrower and old stems
subtomentose" - I'm afraid I wouldn't
get my haughty recognized -

As I look at it the very obscurity
of *S. Geyeri* is against its
validity - Every other ^{mitis ex unguine} well known from
the region where it occurs, found
the *S. Andersson* has been rediscovered
- most of them in abundance - while
here we have a species found on
only a single specimen which is

so like *S. macrocarpa* Nutt. That only
the size and shape of the anthers
- truncation of the wings and outline
of the bract can be named as
affording characters of distinction.

Oh I forgive I ought to have said
that my supposititious new species
existed in only a single specimen.

It won't do, - Still as Sir Joseph
kindly offers a tracing I will follow
the matter up - and see what comes
of it.

I am much occupied now a days
fixing up my new house - grading
and planting the lot - and so -
- toward fall or next winter nothing
could please me more than to have
the Arctic Salices of your Herbarium
revisited - I would like to get the old
set of Types of *Flora Boralea* from the
Torrey Herbarium - and I think I
know how to make better use
of such things than I did 8 or 10
years ago.

Yours very truly
M. S. Peck

Rockford Ill
Dec 9 '84

My dear Mr Watson

At the time I had Mrs Austin's Willow from Anna Co etc which you refer under examination I thought it might be what Nuttall had intended as his B. Steyermarkii but since from the fact that I was unable to verify this. I failed to see how it could be clearly separated ^{any way} from the typical B. flavescens state of the Rocky Mts unless possibly by a greater constancy of difference in the shape of the leaves than the

specimens in hand seemed
to warrant. and in this
Mr Cusick's specimens do not
help us out. I know it
seems like carrying matters
too far to lump this with
flavescens on the one hand
and cross Scouleriana on the
other - but I recall very
distinctly the absolute failure
I experienced in attempting to
draw any lines. However
after the holidays are over
in this bunch of numerous
Bettin I confidently expect
to return to Italy studies
so long but in abeyance
and I will not therefore

return your ticket till I
have gone over the matter
again

I have a comforting
conviction as far as politics
is concerned and that is that
the great social and material
interests of the people rule
this country - the politician is
a noisy fellow - very much
puffed up with an idea
of his immense importance
but Washington is not to the
United States what London is
to Great Britain - not by a
long shot! On this account
I am not sorry to see a
change of administration if
only to convince people that
neither prosperity nor depression

are so absolutely dependent
upon Act of Congress -
as some people would have
no believe -

Yours very truly
Wm. L. Bell

Bell

Rockford

Dec 10 '84

My dear Mr. Watson

Benthams says of
Salix reticulata "Cattkins on
rather long, leafless peduncles
at the ends of short branches
opposite to the last leaf" This
is very expressive - particularly in
the case of our *S. reticulata* which
is like this



But I observe that Anderson
explains the whole branch as a
leafy peduncle and Hooker
following him says "cattkins on
very long leafy peduncles"

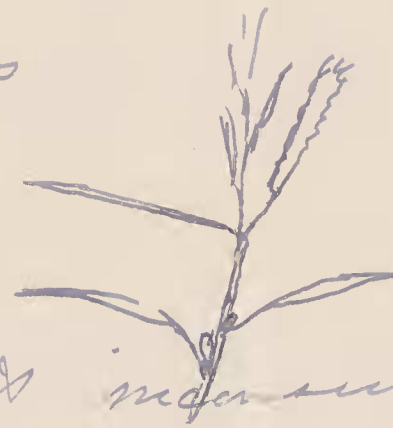
I suppose that strictly speaking

The peduncle of *S. lucida* for instance is just as much a branch as in the present instance - still would you would you say for the sake of clearness of statements, adopt Bentham's language -

I notice that in your Bot 40th Parallel p 327 in translating Andersson you say "peduncle leafy" while a few lines further on you have in your own remarks "aments on long naked peduncles" thus unconsciously adopting a common sense view of the matter -

If we regard the flowers of *S. nigra* for instance as being borne on short lateral leafy branches - and this view we

can not escape for after the growth is continued from the uppermost bud even of the ♂ aments thus



I see no great inconsistency in calling, only so much - in the case of vestiture - as appears above the last leaf, peduncle and let the leafy portion go as a lateral branch -

Please let me have the benefit of your opinion
yours very truly
G. M. D. L. B.

1891

1896

Washington D.C.

Aug 6, 1855

Dear Mr Watson.

The "simple
tricks" are correctly named. But
that was not the case in the
collection from Northern Labrador
consisting of *Putteri*, *vestita*, *glauca*,
reticulata, *trifida*. you were
intending to send me two for
my "specimens when there" I
could have given at once
something like *glauca* and
something like *reticulata* - but
"unlike anything we have
under these names" at least.
Three years or more ago we
made a special collection of
bryozoa in Labrador and on an
average of about every 200
specimens I have found one
but only tried to do something
with it - the specimens were
mainly negative every thing
By the way this specimen is

Rockford Ills
Dec 13th /85

My dear Doctor Gray:

I read your letter with a delight almost childish in its intensity! To the poor fellow, who can just stagger to his easy chair before the fire, after five long, weary weeks of sickness, a few words of kindly sympathy come home very differently from what they do to the strong man. We interest upon the affair in hand the thought much of his own health or that of anyone else.

My sickness began with an attack of pleurisy - not very serious in itself but followed by rigor, sequela - Throughout my excessive weakness was out of all keeping with my general symptoms - But I am on the up grade now looking forward to the next five weeks and questioning dubiously, if they

will restore to me the health and
vigour lost in five weeks past

I had intended to recall
my first visit to Cambridge
twenty seven years ago - out of
which I grew so much to me
of lasting benefit and
inspiration but my hand began
to grow shaky - this another time

Very sincerely your friend

W. S. Webb

P.S. If you have still left (which
is doubtful) a copy of your notice
of Greene's recent work will you not
please send me one -

Rockford Ill
June 21/86

Prof Asa Gray

My dear friend I am still housebound except on pleasant days and such are scarce at this season. But I have gained strength perceptibly in three weeks past without however developing any plus energy to carry me beyond the very quiet, monotonous life of an invalid.

Thank you heartily for recent favors, for the biographical sketches — the notice of "Peberia" — and for your kindly sympathetic letter. Either would lead me, were I in better trim, to overburden a friend very busy about more important matters with a prolix letter. As a young man I cherished an ardent admiration for Agassiz. His "Lake Superior" (which happened to fall into my hands at the time) was one of the books which

helped to make me a botanist of
the small fry sort; but in later
years I never could quite get over
his speech delivered at San Francisco
on the occasion of a public reception
tendered by the Academy of Sciences of that
city. I shall forget that now!

It was my good fortune to be in active
correspondence with Judge Clinton during the
entire period of his greatest activity in
botanical pursuits. The number of droll
letters I had from him:—once three
in a single day! Even his plant
labels were characteristic "Aster ~~simplex~~
~~leucatus~~ D'Gray says ^{it is} and I grumblingly submit"
Who else would have put that on a ticket in
just that way! The very printed page seemed
to change into his well remembered handwriting,
as I read his injunction to you concerning
the "Preliminary List"

Mr Greene assured me of your endorsement
of "Pebbia" when he first wrote me about the
new genus but it is none the less gratifying
to have the reassurance come in such
cordial terms

How I would enjoy an evening with you
both
My warmest regards to Mrs Gray
gratefully & truly yours
Mrs L. L. L.

926 Grant Ave
Rockford Ills
June 1st 1866

My esteemed Friend

I am happy and
proud to be remembered for
a copy of your Contributions.
Have especially enjoyed an
attentive study of your Revision
of the St. A. Ramunelli

Please accept my warmest
thanks for the favor

Yours very truly
W. S. Bell

P.S. I have a good appetite
and sleep well o' nights. Altogether
I see no reason why I should
remain - as an old Irish workman

of ours used to say "so short in
the puff."

926 Grant Ave
Rockford Ills
June 18th /86

My dear Mr Watson

I write to thank
you for the copy of your
recent Botanic Contributions
No XIII. I do enjoy getting
such things. There is a subtle
enjoyment in cutting the
pages and looking over what
the real workers in the
science are doing. Now is this
I imagine altogether free
from a certain degree of
"personal conceit —" I too am
a — botanist, at least up to the
point of appreciation, the
achievements of others!

I am glad to learn that my
friend and correspondent Mr. Buser
is engaged upon a monograph
of the Salices. He brings to
the work admirable qualifications
and a conscientious spirit and
has at hand the ample
facilities afforded by access to
the old herbaria of Europe.

He directs me to forward care
of Dr. Gray, any specimens which I
may wish to send him hereafter
and this leads me to ask - will
you send him the Willows of
Dr. Gray's herb, and if so where?

By the way, how can I best
get a pkg of Salices procured
by a correspondent in Scotland

Dr. Hakansson of Peter - by express or
otherwise? This collection was
made for me mainly to illustrate
European forms of S. glauca, S. laevigata
&c and enable a critical comparison
to be made therewith of allied
forms from sub-arctic America.

You see from this that I
have not altogether abandoned
the expectation of attempting one
of these days a revision of our
glauca and Willows.

Yours very truly,
Orestes B. B.

926 Grant Ave
Rockford Ills
June 18th /86

My esteemed friend:

Did I write to
thank you for a copy of
your recent Contribution? I
intended to do so but fear
my good intentions may have
miscarried. From prudential
considerations I spend much of
my time this summer out-of-
doors, working in my garden,
and have acquired a farmer-like
disinclination to the use of the
pen.

But I have not quite
given over thinking of Millons
and the knotty problem, which

our N. A. species present - some
of which I dare hope I may
yet be able to disentangle.
I am happy to learn that
Mr Buser is engaged upon a
monograph of the genus. He is
an old time friend and I
correspondent (Prof & Throck introduced
us when he and Buser were
fellow students under Dutbury)
and I know of no one better
qualified for this work or who
would be more conscientious
withal. There are some questions
such as the relationship of American
sub-arctic forms to European
types which are most easily
approached by the Old World

student - not simply because of
his more intimate knowledge of
species oldest in the science -
but mainly that he has access
to the old herbaria.

Thanking you for
still returning upon your
list of those deemed worthy
of favors one whose claims
are so small I remain
- very dear Sir

Your devoted friend
Wm. L. G. Peck

Rockford

July 3, 1866

My dear Mr Watson

Thanks for
advice concerning the
sending of a parcel
from Norway. I will
arrange - if possible - to
have it come by
way of Germany and
the parcel mail.

The last time I
asked for the transmission
of a parcel through
the Smithsonian I got
such a curt reply
and quasi-refusal

or conditional acceptance
(I were to read the bill which)
that I have no
brotherhood than "Institution"
since -

With kindest regards
yours very truly
Wm L. Webb

926 Grand Ave

Rockford Ills

July 3^d / 16

My dear Doctor Gray

I most assuredly
"appreciate your letter". Nothing
could give me greater pleasure
than to accept your kind invitation
both as to the hanging of my
hat and hark (hanging my hat
on the Willows is good) but it is
a pleasure which I am constrained
to forego for the present.

I feel proud of being asked
to do the Willows for the Manual
Of that much used old book I
possess two copies: one with which
I began the study of Botany
years and years ago, the other
well worn but evidently used.

changed about the purchase of
middle age and now to the
next complete recasting I am
invited to contribute. I only
hope that I may in this work
nearly so well you may say as
John Pursey Esq^r did in yours.

Having in mind the preparation
of a synopsis of St. St. Willows for
your Honor, and also a more
partly to demand an account I had begun this
summer a critical study of
all our species preparatory to
publication of any sort. I do
however absolutely need before
making prints to avail myself
of the advantages which your
Herbarium and Library would
afford. I wish with all my

heart that "later in July or August"
might be made available for this
purpose but if my visit must be
postponed I trust in some way
to get done. And still I shall
not think of "harrying" my list or
in any way "giving notice" at any time
sitting on, because in consequence
I shall hope that the remaining
clause of your invitation will
hold open indefinitely.

Concerning the sending of
your Willows in to the Herbarium
about which you ask any question,
I would suggest that the most
applicable which I will mention
will be in the connection mentioned
of our St. St. species with the Herbarium
and in the satisfactory determination
of the Salix virginica of Franchet
Loesel and others. Now the
our Herbarium about all other
needed in this regard must be the

926 Grand Ave

Brookford Ills

July 17th 1866

My dear Mr Watson,

My present impression
regarding Mr Spockley's letter
is that it shows our pretensions
& conduct concealed under a
pious disguise - but I would
not like to say so far as
I intend very soon to give
all our conduct a thorough
examination and then
perhaps I may know more
than I do now - perhaps not

I inclose a copy of my
study of the subject

The leaves are not quite
entire. The lower (seen with a
magnifier) are serrated, glandular
dentate - after the style as it
was of *P. longifolia*: then appearing
later both as if they might
develop a margin serrate-
dentate or even, serrate.

If your correspondent is
collecting at a permanent
station I would like very much
to see the leaves of later date.
If getting the specimens would be
likely to tax him unnecessarily,
be not particular.

The original ticket I retain
accompanies the specimens you
sent me - Is it your only one.

If so I will return it but as
I can make no suggestion of the
kind "self the wandering balance
shakes" in other directions.

Pratt's list & my
yours cordially
Yours truly
J. L. Roth



926 Grant Ave
Rockford Ill
March 8/87

Dear Mr Watson -

The Willms are safe in hand this morning after being a long time on the way. Looking them over has been in the whole not a cheerful nor encouraging experience. I encountered such deplorable stuff written down "fide Beck" on the strength of numbered specimens sent to me for determination! Well I am glad to have a chance to correct at any rate.

Types of Anderson will be very useful - and instructive. I will take good care of the specimens and return them in a reasonable time -

I have gone at our Willms de novo - Taking each

individual specimens worthy
of examination. simply as an
individual / that is with no pre-
conceived notion of the species /
and have made a careful and
thorough study of details - drawing
on the page sheet. The capsule -
scale - stigmas - &c. - to a uniform
scale of 8 diameters - Gradually all of
all this detail work has already
began to come a clearer definition
of the limits of species -

But I am done naming
specimens by numbers unless I
can feel dead sure that my
correspondent knows when two
things are the same with both
before his eyes - The mischief
of it was I had to do so much
of this sort of thing at a time
when I was myself a mere
learner -

Yours very truly
M. S. Leitch

926 Grand Ave
Rockford Ills
March 8th / 17

Dear Doctor Gray

The box was received this morning - Contents as unimpaired as when they left the Harvard Univ. Herbarium. I will take good care of the specimens, and return them within a reasonable time -

I am glad that you have made inquiry after Herb. Barard. His Papers ought to be in your Herbarium where they would be accessible - especially the types of the Flora Bor. Amer.

It had not entered into my calculations that I might miss the pleasure of meeting you this summer if I went to Cambridge - Nevertheless I

am glad that you can get
away for all the helpfulness
and inspiration that must
come through change of
scene - and the meeting of
friends over the water -

I am pursuing a better
method now in the study of
Willows - more cautious - thorough
and reliable - recording in
notes, drawings of details &c.
the absolute proof of every position
taken -

Very respectfully,
Yours truly,
W. S. Webb

926 Grant Ave
Rockford Ills
April 4/17

My dear Mr Watson,

I ought to have written weeks ago to tell you of the satisfaction I got out of a careful study of the Arctic Salices which you so kindly placed in my hands: but in the midst of my closet work I was called away from home for a fortnight and have but just returned.

Thanks for the additional Alaskan material which I find on my table - a timely incentive to further study.

I imagine Dr Gray will have sailed for Europe long ere this but on the bare possibility that he may not have done so let me through you convey my thanks for

"Botanical Contributions" 1887 and
best wishes for a prosperous
voyage - successful prosecution
of his labors abroad and speedy
return.

If he is to be in
London any length of time
will you please give me
his address -

Very truly yours
Wm. S. Webb

926 Grand Ave
Rockford Ills
Jan 14 '88

My dear Mr Watson

In handing you the MS of Salis for the new ed of the Manual I wish to say a few words about what I have done - with the understanding right at the start that this letter is not to be tucked away somewhere in the Museum as a kind of personal commentary on the whole performance - I would wish to write too freely for that. There is no person upon whom criticism I should so readily feel like doubting and revising my own opinions as your own - certainly no one to whom I can trust so much to correct any imperfections in literary style - In a matter of fact you would not have had me write the Salis if you did not trust my judgment - in a matter of treatment I have by no means the experience of a constant writer like yourself - All this is a long prelude to my few words -

The two main sections are briefly and yet fully defined - I would leave

adopted Fries name Americia for the first if I could have found another equally good for the second but Underssons Diandrae won't work - there are too many diandrous species in the other group -

My first division under § 1 dominates S. longifolia - by a good many other characters - at the same time leaving all the other species with capsules glabrous -

The next subdivision by the number of stamens I do not like but it is the best that can be hit upon to separate our native species from the introduced fragilis - It is best to avoid sectional characters drawn from the male but in this case it is unavoidable - as I imagine it also must have appeared to Mr Carey

Don't be dismayed when you strike my first description S. nigra - it has given lots of bother and is as good now as I can make it - the forms are so variable and so difficult to define in a few words - The remark about V. Wardii is not wholly superfluous - it gives emphasis to the fact that the leaves bear a close enough likeness to S. cordata to deceive

even Andersson! Let me beg of you
to admit the way in which I have
given authors names after reduced
species - following in this respect
Hookers Student Flora - Among the
Willows I do not see what else I can
do. There are some reduced species when it
is not certainly known to whom the credit
of a first reduction really belongs. Besides
it saves space

S. alba var *vitellina* L. (Sp.)

S. alba var *vitellina*, Koch. - (*S. vitellina* L.)

I think I have the species in a nice
natural - linear - arrangement
nigra - *amygdaloides* - *lucida* - *fragilis* - *alba* -
longifolia - *Longifolia* really belongs
to this section - but deserves a separate
group - Now about the note after
S. fragilis - it is the briefest and seems
to me the best way to dispose of
Russellian - *fragilis* *viridis* &c. - instead
of attempting separate descriptions - would
you write Note before or let it stand
as a paragraph under the last species of
the group?

Notwithstanding the fact that we have
only one sep of *S. Babylonica* I think

it should be regarded as a division -
I am assured that when a stream in
Pennsylvania runs for miles through
a trackless mountain forest. its banks
are lined with *S. Babylonica* -

Under § 2 Capsules Tormentosa - Capsules
flabrous seems at a glance very artificial
- but it divides our species decidedly -
without doing violence to natural
sequence - brings the alpines where
they belong &c. - It wouldn't work at all
in Europe - with us it works first rate
see as to me - Style short or none as
against style elongated - is not likely to
be misleading - The first section
following brings discolor and rostrata
together (as they should be) - and places
rostrata of all our species next to
America which is also as it should
be -

The next section (to save repetition) combines
the characters as far as possible of *S. humilis*
and *S. tristis* -

The next group (Argentae) gives *S. argyropurpurea*
where it belongs - After defining the
subgroup there seems to be little left
of *S. sericea* and *S. piteolaris* but the